

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4976

S E C R E T ATHENS 5800

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJ: CYPRUS

1. DEFMIN AVEROFF DISCLOSED TO ME THAT MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES FROM ATHENS AREA AUGUST 11 WAS RESPONSE TO THE THREAT OF A NEW MILITARY COUP WHICH CAME TO AVEROFF'S ATTENTION IN TIME. WHEN HE LEARNED OF IT, PM CARAMANLIS WENT IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS AND ANNOUNCED THAT, UNLESS PRESIDENT SUPPORTED CARAMANLIS, PM WOULD LEAVE AND TAKE PLANE FOR PARIS. GHIZIKIS AGREED TO SUPPORT PM, AND TRANSFER MILITARY UNITS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED TOOK PLACE.

2. AVEROFF SAID HE NOW FELT GOVERNMENT BEYOND DANGER POINT OF FURTHER COUP, ALTHOUGH YOUNGER OFFICERS TRAINED IN MILITARY SCHOOLS SINCE APRIL 1967 CLEARLY BRAINWASHED. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A DANGER AND WOULD HAVE TO BE KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE. THEY REMAINED FAIRLY LOYAL TO GENERAL IOANNIDES, WHO AT TIME OF THIS MESSAGE IS STILL OCCUPYING HIS OFFICE IN GREEK PENTAGON. AVEROFF SAID HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO THESE OFFICERS THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR PERSONALLY, BUT IF THEY ATTEMPTED COUP THERE WOULD BE REAL BLOODSHED. HE SAID THAT HE HAS ORGANIZED PERSONNEL, INCLUDING CIVILAIAS, FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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